Sugar Prices

† 3903. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the retail selling price of sugar in the country has risen considerable during the last few months;

(b) if so, the hike in prices during December, 2004 in comparison to the prices during March, 2004;

(c) average retail selling price of sugar in December, 2004; and

(d) the total storage of sugar in the country by the end of December, 2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The average retal price of sugar in the four principal markets of the country was in the range of Rs. 16.75 — 20.00 per kg. during the month of December, 2004 as against Rs. 15.00 — 17.00 per kg. during the month of March, 2004.

(d) The total stock of sugar in the country by the end of December, 2004 was 89.27 lakh tonnes (Provisional).

Allocations to Karnataka

3904. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of allocation of rice, wheat, sugar and kerosene to Karnataka from January, 2004 to the end of December, 2004;

(b) whether there is any demand from Karnataka for the enhancement of quota of these foodgrains and kerosene;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps, if any, taken to increase the allocation"

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.